KEIGHLEY BY-ELECTION.

POLLING IN A FORTNIGHT.

ARRIVAL OF SIR S. BUCKMASTER.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

CANDIDATES.	LAST ELECTION.	
Captain Lascelles (C).	Mr. S. O. Buckmaster (L.) ..	4,667
Sir S. O. Buckmaster (L).	Mr. W. M. Acworth (C) ..	3,842
	Mr. W. C. Anderson (Lab.)	3,452
	Liberal majority	825

Keighley, Monday Night.

In the light-hearted phraseology of the day, the orders all round are "Full steam ahead!" Anticipating the arrival of the writ on Friday, the Returning Officer ascertained the views of the two political parties to-day, and has provisionally fixed the nominations for November 5, and the polling for Tuesday, November 11. This gives an immediate stimulus to the strenuous life. It is understood that Sir Stanley Buckmaster himself is not anxious for a long struggle, and the only people who will be seriously handicapped are the Labour organisations, which have not yet definitely decided whether they will fight. Mr. Bland, as I pointed out, is only as yet the nominee of the local branches of the Independent Labour party, and may not be approved at to-night's full conference of delegates. Whoever is chosen must have the sanction of the National Executive, and some sort of guarantee that the election expenses will be forthcoming.

Lord Lascelles was to-day conferring with his workers, and arranging the plan of campaign, and Sir Stanley Buckmaster arrived in the constituency to-night, and was greeted by a considerable crowd of supporters. Numerous meetings are being arranged. On the Unionist side members of Parliament and others who are qualified to speak on the dominant and subsidiary questions now before the country will appear on the candidate's platform, whilst the Solicitor-General is already promised the assistance of Mr. Handel Booth, who believes in serving up his oratorical dishes with plenty of pepper. Judging from the phenomena of certain messages which he has communicated to newspaper editors, he seems anxious to try the political Ju-Jitsu on anybody who is prepared to criticise the Insurance Act. Besides the Member for Pontefract, the Liberal candidate will be supported this week by Mr. Philip Morrell, Mr. James Rowlands, Mr. Fred Ogden, and Mr. C. Roden Buxton. The list of Unionist speakers for the next few days is not yet complete, but it includes the names of Mr. J. G. Butcher, M.P., the Hon. A. Orde-Powlett, M.P., the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., Mr. Arthur Fell, M.P. for Yarmouth, Mr. H. E. Barnston, M.P. for the Eddisbury Division of Cheshire, Mr. W. R. Campion, M.P. for the Lewes Division of Sussex, Mr. A. B. Boyd Carpenter, prospective candidate for East Bradford, and Mr. Harvey Brain, one of the prospective candidates for Norwich.

A Torchlight Reception.

There was a big crowd at the Midland Station to-night to meet the Liberal candidate. His advent had been well-advertised in the newspapers, and one inscription in bold type ran—"Buckmaster arrives at Keighley Station 7.45 to-night! Will you be there?" Several thousands responded to the invitation. When the Solicitor-General stepped on to the platform, looking demure and modest, yet self-possessed, he was greeted by Sir Swire Smith, Col. John Sugden, Mr. Spencer Binns, and other leading Liberals. "You're wanted over here," one of them said to him, and he replied, "All right; I am ready to do what I am told," and he toed the line with his fellow-disruptionists whilst a photographer took a flashlight portrait. Then, moving up the slope to the station exit, the new member of the Government was escorted amid files of men and boys carrying torches and Chinese lanterns on bamboo poles.

Escorted in this way through slippery streets to the Liberal Club, Sir Stanley Buckmaster immediately came to the balcony and made a short speech, his supporters cheering him with gusto. A chubby youth with a lusty voice shouted "Good old Buckmaster!" and another, with a statesmanlike capacity for looking ahead, called out from the throng, "A happy New Year!" Expressing his thanks for the reception, he said it was impossible not to feel elated and not to rejoice. A little interruption occurred on the fringe of the crowd, and a little booing was heard now and again. Once the Chairman called for order. "I only want to tell you," continued Sir Stanley, "that the work you entrusted us to do through me as your representative two years ago is being carried out, and with your help will be carried to its completion without panic, and without pause. It would be a strange thing indeed if now you were to go back upon the work that you did two years ago, and for the first time in the long history of this place to be unfaithful to the great traditions to which we all owe so much."

"A Fair, Honest, and Relentless Fight."

As to the contest on which the constituency is embarked, he observed: "I myself have no doubt what the result will be." Whether he had one opponent or more than one he promised that they would meet with "a fair, honest, and relentless fight"; and he prophesied that they would once more be overwhelmed in defeat. In conclusion, he thanked the audience for their confidence and regard "at this great and critical moment of my life." And, as he finished, the juvenile soothsayer once more called out, "A happy New Year to you!"

"Rowdy 'Home Rulers.'"

Considerable disorder occurred at the corner of Cook Street and Lord Street whilst the Solicitor-General was arriving in the town. Two of the representatives of the Unionist Associations of Ireland—Mr. John Chestnutt and Mr. Alec Mackay—were holding a meeting in opposition to Home Rule, and a number of hot-blooded Irishmen pelted them with eggs and filth and bits of scrap iron, and made an attempt to upset the waggon from which they were speaking. Mr. Chestnutt seemed to be an especial mark for their fury. His coat was soiled, but, fortunately, he was not struck by any of the harder missiles. Most of the attackers appeared to be real "bhoys" from across the water, and the accent of County Mayo was noticeable in their interjections. The police will be asked to see to the preservation of free speech.

The Unionist candidate is already assured of a substantial staff of voluntary helpers. Members of the Conservative Clubs in the Division—the great majority of them of the artisan class—will be among his active workers, and the members of the Primrose League have offered their services for clerical work and canvassing. There are two Habitations, one at Keighley, and the other at Haworth, and their activities in the different wards and polling districts are being directed by Lieutenant Bougher, the Yorkshire representative of the League.

PROBABLE POLLING DAY AT READING

MR. GOOCH AND WELSH DISENDOWMENT.

CONTROVERTING THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

There was not much observable activity in Reading yesterday, although the staffs of workers were appreciably increased, and the newest arrivals were told off to the particular tasks assigned them. Neither party would appear to have been taken by surprise, and necessary steps for a contest were discussed some weeks before Sir Rufus Isaacs stepped from the political arena to the Judicial Bench.

Captain Wilson did not hold any meetings last evening, but Mr. Gooch went out to Redlands Ward. Referring specially to the question of the Welsh Church, he said it must be regarded in the main as a question of justice. His opponent had asked him at a Town Hall meeting whether he was in favour of the disendowment of the Welsh Church. As he had only mentioned disestablishment in his election address, Captain Wilson had a perfect right to ask that question, and he would give Captain Wilson an answer. If they came to the conclusion, as he had some time ago, that disestablishment of the Church in Wales was just, then disendowment followed, because it was recognised both by friends and enemies of the present Bill that disestablishment necessarily carried with it, at any rate, a certain measure of disendowment. He endorsed what Bishop Gore had said on this matter. He had noticed a statement by the Archbishop of York that Churchmen would recognise nothing short of a large majority given for the Welsh Bill at the next general election. If a general election came now, or next spring, did the Archbishop seriously imagine that it would be fought on Welsh Disestablishment? On the contrary, it would be fought on half-a-dozen issues, and if the Liberals won the Archbishop would say the election could not be taken as confirming the principle of the Welsh Bill, because it was fought on other issues. (Hear, hear.) Their Tory friends had no right to demand a special election for every Liberal measure with which they did not happen to agree.

St. Mary's Butts is a part of the town much favoured by outdoor orators, and three groups occupied pitches last night, in inconveniently close proximity to each other. They represented respectively the Socialists, the Tariff Reformers, and the Home Rule Council.

Both Captain Wilson and Mr. Gooch looked in at a concert given in aid of the sufferers by the Welsh colliery disaster.

There is a prevalent impression that the polling day will be fixed for the 8th November, notwithstanding the traders' protest, and an official statement will be issued this evening after a meeting specially convened on the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was stated last night that the local branch of the Independent Labour party, after hearing Mr. Butler's views, formally decided to support him.

SIR HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN'S RETIREMENT.

HIS ATTITUDE ON THE LAND QUESTION.

Sir Henry Havelock-Allan's short experience of Parliamentary life has taught him that democracy is a hard taskmaster. Since 1910 he has represented the Bishop Auckland Division of Durham, and, as reported in yesterday's "Yorkshire Post," he has now intimated to the Liberal Executive that when this Parliament comes to an end he will not seek re-election. The decision, we understand, is not dictated by any disapproval of the party's policy, though the time selected for making the announcement has naturally given rise to the supposition that, as a landowner, Sir Henry could not see eye to eye with the fresh attack that is being made upon the land.

Perhaps, the truth is that Sir Henry finds the occupation of a member of Parliament less fascinating than he thought it would be, apart from which it is clear that "words" have passed between him and the local Executive as to the interests of the constituency. Not to put too fine a point upon it, his supporters conceive themselves to have been rather neglected in the past, and they have not hesitated to tell him so. Straight talk on these lines between a member and his constituents usually has but one ending, and Sir Henry, being a man of spirit, has decided that the partnership had better be terminated. On the occasion of his last public appearance in the constituency, he said he was not an ambitious politician, and if any section of his supporters preferred some one else to represent them he would be the last to stand in the way. His resignation is the natural sequel. Sir Henry says he has other interests in life than politics. He is, for instance, interested in Territorial work, being an officer of the Durham Light Infantry. "My Executive," he explains, "appear to think that politics should be my sole pre-occupation. I disagree, and I have, therefore, sent in my resignation."

In an interview with one of our representatives yesterday, Sir Henry, who lives at Blackwell Grange, Darlington, said it was untrue to suggest that he was retiring because of disagreement with the Government's land policy. He had always been a supporter of reform, though he admitted that Mr. Lloyd George's proposals were very novel, and aimed at breaking down a lot of old-fashioned customs in the management of estates. But he did not object to that. Still, the proposals were very sketchy at present, and whether he should be able to accept every jot and tittle of the scheme when it was finally worked out was another matter. He added that he had written to the Chief Whip of the party saying that he would support the Government in the lobby during the rest of its term of office, and also the land policy, if this latter was not rendered impossible by subsequent events.

Sir Henry, it may be added, is private Parliamentary secretary to the Under-Secretary for India, the Hon. E. S. Montagu, and is related by marriage to the Minister of Education, Mr. Pease.

REPRESENTATION OF WHITBY.

A LIBERAL CANDIDATE CHOSEN.

It was announced at Scarborough last night that the name of Mr. S. S. Lockwood, of Scalby, would be submitted to the meeting of the Whitby Liberal Association at Pickering, on Friday, as the prospective Liberal candidate for the Whitby Division. Mr. Lockwood was Master of the Staintondale Foxhounds last year, and he represents Scalby on the Scarborough Board of Guardians.

THE SOUTH LANARKSHIRE VACANCY.

A meeting of the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation has been hurriedly summoned to consider the vacancy in South Lanarkshire, caused by the death of Sir Walter Menzies. The constituency includes a large number of miners and various industrial workers. Several names were suggested by the miners' officials some time ago, and the Lanarkshire Miners' Union favoured the selection of Mr. Thomas Gibb, colliery checkweighman, who is a member of the Lanarkshire Miners' Executive, to contest the seat at the next general election. The Executive will now consider the subject in all its bearings.

LIBERAL AND LABOUR DIFFERENCES AT CREWE.

Arising out of a suggestion recently by Lord Aberconway that an effort should be made to unite forces at Crewe before another election, a conference has taken place between the Liberal and Labour parties there, but the Labour Whip has declined to acquiesce in a proposal that the question should be submitted to the arbitration of the respective Whips, though it came from the prospective Labour candidate in the form of a challenge to the Liberal party. Both Liberal and Labour candidates are now opening their campaigns.

GENERAL ELECTION IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man (Lord Raglan) yesterday issued a proclamation dissolving the House of Keys. The House was elected within a month of five years ago, and would have expired by the effluxion of time next month. The writs for a general election are to be issued next Friday. The burning question of the general election is reform of the Legislative Council, or the official branch of the Legislature, by the introduction of an elective element.

SCOUTS' SUNKEN VESSEL RAISED.

A BODY RECOVERED.

The sea Scouts' ketch The Mirror, which was sunk in collision with a steamer in the Thames on Saturday night, with the loss of four lives, was raised and beached yesterday, and the body of the young boatswain, Christopher H. Witt, was found on deck entangled in the gear. The ketch was split from deck to keel by the force of the collision.

A PANEL DOCTOR'S TRAGIC DEATH.

Dr. Horace Dimock, who was the special insurance panel doctor at Wisbech, and who, on Friday last, was arrested on a charge of libel, was yesterday morning found dead in his bed at Streatham, near Ely, where he motor-cycled on Sunday night. There was the usual crowd of patients at Dr. Dimock's surgery on Saturday night, and one of these patients was told by him to come again on Tuesday. On Sunday the doctor visited a number of other patients on his motor-cycle. He returned to Streatham at 9 p.m. and went to bed, having had no sleep for the previous three nights. His sister took up his shaving water yesterday morning at his request, but as he did not come down she entered his room at 12.30 and found him dead.

The report submitted at the annual meeting of the Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Dispensary yesterday showed that during the year 5,533 persons had been treated, against 6,286 in the previous year, and 632 in-patients, compared with 671. Workmen's contributions had increased by £192. A debt of £1,318 had been reduced to £676, the surplus on the year being over £600.

THE ULSTER PROBLEM.

STATEMENT BY SIR E. GREY.

POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS OUTLINED.

Sir Edward Grey last night addressed a mass meeting of his constituents in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, presided over by Sir Francis Blake. The balcony was filled with members of the Women's Liberal Federation.

Sir Edward Grey commenced by recalling his long connection and absorbing duties at the Foreign Office as an explanation of why it was that he had been unable to do as much as a Parliamentary representative did usually in the way of meeting his constituents and discussing affairs. (Suffragette cries, and two persons ejected.) For that reason he proposed not to speak on foreign affairs, but to open his mind upon the most critical question in home affairs at this moment, and that was Ireland. He hoped they had got the Irish question brought to a final stage. Until they had completed that stage the Irish question was one to which the electorate must necessarily give their strenuous attention.

The Threat of Civil War.

Home Rule had become a necessity on the purely practical ground of the interests of English and Scottish and Imperial politics. Parliament would become increasingly incapable of transacting satisfactorily the important business of the United Kingdom unless Home Rule became law. He proceeded: "We are told that Ulster will resist the Home Rule Bill to such an extent as to create civil war and bloodshed. It does not make a settlement by consent any easier to be confronted with all the language we have heard on behalf of Ulster during the last few weeks. They are appealing to us on the other side now to realise how much better and pleasanter a settlement would be by consent than a settlement carried by force. We do not want to disregard that appeal, but it does not make it easier if the language of menace and threats of civil war are used. It is an exceedingly bad precedent, because if the minority in Ireland are to use threats of civil war what is to be expected of the majority in Ireland if Home Rule fails? Bloodshed is exceedingly unpleasant, civil war is detestable and abominable; can it be avoided? They say it all depends upon the Government and the Liberal party whether it can be avoided. That is not an aspect of the case upon which I am going to dwell to-night. I say, on the other hand, I think it can be avoided, but it depends upon Ulster and the Conservative party whether it can be avoided. Agreement should be possible, but it depends not merely upon one side, but upon both sides being conciliatory and reasonable. If there is to be agreement, there must be some sort of compromise. Ulster says it is going to fight. Now I should like to ask Ulster not what is Ulster going to fight against, but what is Ulster going to fight for? Is Ulster going to fight for the continuance of the existing state of things? I think about a year ago they were arguing that Home Rule must be dropped, and that when it was dropped they were prepared to co-operate with the House of Commons in dealing with Irish land, education, and every sort of reform Ireland wanted. That is exactly what we cannot have; we cannot have the time of the House of Commons taken up with these things; they have got to be dealt with in Ireland by Irishmen for Ireland. (Cheers.) Ulster's position is that Home Rule means the destruction of Ulster, or the Protestants in Ulster. I reply that, equally from the British and Imperial point of view, the continuance of the existing state of things as regards the House of Commons means destruction to us. To resist Home Rule Ulster says is a matter of life and death to them, and we say that to put an end to the existing state of things is a matter of life and death for us; and we must resort to the methods that are needed to put an end to the existing state of things; and if violence is to be used to resist Home Rule in order that the existing state of things may be maintained then you must meet violence by violence. (Loud cheers.)

The Government's Notion of "Compromise."

If there is to be agreement, if there is to be compromise, if there is to be settlement by consent, which we hope and wish to see, you must at any rate have first of all a clear understanding that the existing state of things should be put an end to, and that there is to be Home Rule. And if you are to have a clear understanding on that you must have a clear understanding on another point. As far as the present Government is concerned the measure of Home Rule which we have put into law must set up a subordinate Irish Legislature and an Executive responsible to it in Ireland, because unless you do that you will have back again in Ireland the old hateful state of things of coercing the majority in Ireland. You have not heard anything of coercion in Ireland for a long time because of the hope and expectation of Home Rule. Drop or defeat this Bill, and you will be face to face again with the problem of governing a majority in Ireland by coercion. And they will have this on their side, that the very people—the Conservative Government which is then in power—which is attempting to coerce them will be composed of people who have upheld and justified the threats of Ulster to resort to the same methods of forcible resistance.

He admitted that coercion of a minority was only less hateful than the coercion of a majority, and he disliked the prospect of the use of force to coerce any part of Ireland to accept a settlement, and the Liberal party shared that aversion. "We would much rather have a settlement by consent if we can," he continued. "As far as we are concerned, if there be a settlement by consent it must be a settlement on the lines of the conditions laid down by the Prime Minister on Saturday night." (Cheers.)

There had been a suggestion of temporary exclusion of Ulster, or part of Ulster, from the operations of the Bill. There was much to be said in favour of that, but it did not work so well in practice, he thought. He would not shut the door on anything which was not inconsistent with the conditions laid down by the Prime Minister. The Government were reproached that their language was too vague and indefinite when they said they would go a long way to meet the objections of Ulster. Was it not the case that Ulster was a little too vague? (Hear, hear.) Let them explain a little more definitely what they were afraid of. If there was any attempt to oppress and illtreat the Protestant minority in Ireland, and the Protestant majority in Ulster, they knew perfectly well that the whole sympathy of this country would be against oppression, and with the oppressed, but he did not believe that if the Home Rule Bill passed into law, and came into operation, as it stood, there could be these consequences.

How far the Government will go.

He would say to Ulster, if they were convinced that these consequences would happen: "We are prepared to go as far as we possibly can in any modifications of our Home Rule Bill short of dropping and spoiling the Bill, to make it absolutely impossible that any of those things you fear should happen under Home Rule." (Cheers.) He understood that the root and difficulty of the whole matter was the fear of religious intolerance. If that were so, he wondered how it would show itself. It was unthinkable that it would take the form of legislation. Was Ulster afraid that education was going to be unfairly dealt with, that there was going to be a denominational and sectarian spirit which would be prejudicial to it? Was it afraid that the administration would be unfair? Let them come forward plainly and say so, because if that was what they were afraid of that could be met by a modification of the Home Rule Bill which in practice would make any unfair administration in Ulster impossible under Home Rule. "It is quite possible, and perfectly consistent as regards special subjects like that, to give to one part of Ireland which has special conditions an autonomy if you like—Home Rule within Home Rule as regards its own education, own police, and matters of that kind; and given something of that kind it seems absolutely incredible to me that Ulster has anything to fear. I do not believe Ulster has anything to fear anyhow, but if they have anything to fear let them say what it is, and we will see if we cannot give some further safeguards by leaving certain things statutorily in their own hands, which will make it impossible that they can be arranged except by themselves."

He was not, he added, making any new offer or anything of the kind on behalf of the Government; he was discussing the matter simply as one between himself and his constituents. There must be no doubt or misunderstanding. If there was any possibility of what he regarded as settlement of concessions were made there must not be any continuance of opposition to the Home Rule Bill. They must understand that this—the Home Rule Bill, modified with these concessions in it, must go through by consent, and be accepted by both sides. (Cheers.) He believed that Ulster suffered from real apprehension, and that the men of Ulster intended to carry their resistance to an extreme point. "But," he added, "I say to them this, if we are to take them seriously they must take us seriously too. (Cheers.) They must understand that we mean business. We consider it absolutely essential, whether from the Irish point of view or the British or Imperial point of view, to put Irish affairs in the hands of Irishmen themselves. If no compromise is possible we believe we can spare no effort to carry the end through. I maintain that we are not only entitled, we are bound, when there is no sign that the country has changed, to proceed with the Home Rule Bill." (Cheers.)

In a brief reference to the Government's land proposals, he said no doubt they would mean increasing the number of paid officials, but not to the extent some people imagined. In conclusion, he said when the time came to appeal to the country he would have no wish to shirk the Irish question as the issue. If there was any tendency to shirk that question as the issue it was rather on the Conservative than the Liberal side.

Answering a question, Sir Edward could not undertake that the reconstruction of the Second Chamber would take place before the land proposals had passed through the House of Commons. It was, however, the intention of the Government to reconstruct the Second Chamber, and he trusted that the chance for doing that would be before the country before Parliament was dissolved.

MR. BIRRELL AND THE BELFAST STUDENTS.

AN AWKWARD MISTAKE.

Returning from Portrush to Dublin yesterday, Mr. Birrell passed through Belfast, and after making a call upon the Lord Mayor visited Queen's University. As Mr. Birrell entered the recreation room a body of students repeated three times in strident chorus the words "We will not have Home Rule." The Chief Secretary appeared somewhat disconcerted. As Mr. Birrell entered another room the students raised three cheers for Sir Edward Carson, and Mr. Birrell, who had apparently not heard the name, raised his hat and bowed acknowledgment of the cheers, the students roaring with laughter at the incident.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY ABOUT MONGOLIA.

INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.

(Press Association Special Telegram.)

Pekin, Monday.

The Russo-Chinese agreement regarding Mongolia now only awaits the Czar's approval. The definition of China's suzerainty does not include Mongolia as a "partie integrante" of China, a proposal to which the Russian Government objected. The Urga Convention satisfies Russia's political interests, while the protocol signed towards the end of last year adequately safeguards the rights of Russian subjects in Mongolia. The question of the rights of Chinese residing in Mongolia will be settled at a Russo-Chinese-Mongol conference, which, according to the Russian Legation, will follow the lines of the Simla Conference.

British traders are alarmed by Mongolian notifications of the impending introduction of 10 per cent. ad valorem import and export duties on foreign goods—except Russian—entering or leaving Urga, which is the only important Mongolian trade centre. This duty is already being imposed on Chinese traders, while Russians are exempt.

CANADIAN FARMERS AND BRITISH PREFERENCE.

Regina, Monday.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture, representing the grain growers of the Prairie Provinces, has decided to send a delegation to Ottawa with resolutions urging the increase of British Preference to 50 per cent., with a gradual increase to Free Trade in five years, and also a free interchange of agricultural animal products with the United States, and placing other foodstuffs and agricultural implements, lumber, and cement, on the free list.

Pending such legislation any present duties which cause countervailing duties should, it is urged, be removed. Immediately that any tariff or trade concessions are granted to any country they shall be immediately extended to Great Britain.

The resolutions also ask for co-operative society legislation.—Reuter.

OBITUARY.

MISS MARGARET E. GASKELL.

An attractive figure in the literary and social life of Manchester has passed away by the death of Miss Margaret E. Gaskell. Miss Gaskell, who died on Sunday at her residence in Plymouth Grove, Manchester, was the last survivor but one of the family of the Rev. Wm. Gaskell, formerly Unitarian minister, and of his wife, the famous novelist; and in looks she bore some resemblance to her mother. She was the founder of the Manchester High School for Girls, and was a public benefactor in many ways.

But Miss Gaskell (says the "Manchester Guardian") was something much rarer and more irreplaceable than a generous user of leisure and means. In her, as in the house where she spent almost her whole life, there lived on into the twentieth century a trace of what was most gifted and radiant in the middle of the nineteenth. She had grown up in the morning of her mother's fame. She had learnt drawing from Ruskin—and to good purpose, for she was an amateur artist of considerable accomplishment; Thackeray's daughters were friends of her girlhood; she had first read the "Stones of Venice" in a copy sent her by Charlotte Brontë; she had climbed in the Alps with Leslie Stephen and the Winkworths in the early years of mountaineering, and, with her sister Julia, had made the first crossing by a woman of the Morning Pass; in Paris she had met the wittiest of French people at the house of Mme. Mohl; at Rome she had been, with her mother, the guest of W. W. Story when the English colony at Rome was what is shown in "The Newcomes." In Mrs. Gaskell herself a remarkable social gift had expanded delightedly in the warmth and brightness of modest prosperity and distinction. The house at Plymouth Grove became such a meeting place of brilliant and accomplished people as is rarely organised in a great industrial town. Lord Houghton, the poet, called it the one thing that made Manchester a possible place of residence for people of literary tastes.

. . . Miss Gaskell had the true instinct for conversation; it kindled her wit and frankness to the most direct and brilliantly apt comments—delightfully indiscreet at times—on her world, especially in her country cottage at Silverdale, on Morecambe Bay, where she was more at rest from social duties, and might be led to take the place in talk which as a rule she sought to give to some guest.

Since the death of her father in 1884 Miss Gaskell had discharged with great determination a difficult trust imposed by Mrs. Gaskell upon her family. The novelist's painful experience of the troubles that may indirectly arise from frankness in biography—the first edition of her "Life of Charlotte Brontë" had to be withdrawn from circulation in order to avoid an action for libel—led her to charge her husband and daughters to do nothing to assist any future biographer of herself. Miss Gaskell never, so far as we know, either commended or deplored her mother's directions, but she carried them out with a staunchness unequalled in any of the similar cases in modern literary history.

Lady Baden Powell, widow of Sir George Baden Powell, M.P., and sister-in-law of the defender of Mafeking, died at Cheltenham yesterday.

Captain Gerald Paget, fourth son of the late Lord Alfred Paget, died in London on Saturday, in his 60th year. He had held commissions in the Northumberland Artillery Militia and the Hertfordshire Yeomanry, and served with distinction in the Matabele Campaign and the South African War. He was well known in yachting circles and on the Turf.

Mr. William Hunting, a past president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and of the National Veterinary Association, has died at Chelsea, at the age of 69. He was a son of the late Mr. Charles Hunting, veterinary surgeon, of South Hetton, Durham, and was in private practice until he was appointed principal veterinary inspector for the London County Council. He founded the "Veterinary Record."

The death took place suddenly yesterday, at the residence of his sister, 28, West Parade, Huddersfield, of Mr. Thomas Drake, who was 74 years of age. Mr. Drake, who was the second oldest solicitor in Huddersfield, was a native of the town, and served his articles with the late Mr. Richard Hird. He attended St. Aidan's Mission Church. He was a Freemason being a Past Master of the Lodge of Candour, Uppermill. Mr. Drake had been twice married, was a widower, and leaves no family.

Mr. Henry Walter Hope, son of the late Mr. George William Hope, M.P., died at Luffness on Saturday, at the age of 74. After serving with the Grenadier Guards he joined the Berwickshire Yeomanry, of which he raised a squadron, and subsequently was connected with the East Lothian Volunteers, retiring with the rank of major. He was a pioneer of golf in East Lothian, was Provincial Grand Master of the East Lothian Freemasons, and was for three years Master of the Lothians Hunt. In 1885 he married the Lady Mary Primrose, sister of Lord Rosebery, and daughter of the Duchess of Cleveland.

PROTECTION OF BRITISH SHIPPING.

ACTION BY SIR EDWARD GREY.

At yesterday's meeting of the North of England Shipowners' Association at Newcastle, it was announced that Sir Edward Grey had instructed the British Minister at Athens to represent to the Greek Government that the British Government expected that British shipping, bound bona-fide for neutral ports in the Black Sea, would not be interfered with in the event of war again breaking out between Greece and Turkey. The British Ambassador at Constantinople had similarly been directed to inform the Porte that the British Government trusted shipping passing through Turkish territorial waters would not be molested.

THE KIEFF MURDER TRIAL.

RELIGIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS' TESTIMONY.

(Press Association Special Telegram.)

Kieff, Sunday.

Vera Cheberiak's convict brother Singaevsky and his accomplice Rudzinsky gave evidence in the ritual murder trial this afternoon. They have been brought from remote prisons in Siberia to give their testimony. Singaevsky denied that he had ever seen Yushinsky, and Rudzinsky denied all knowledge of Vera Cheberiak. Evidently with a keen eye to dramatic effect in view of her brother's appearance, Vera had discarded her flashy yellow plumed hat in favour of a wrap of black lace, and appeared in court wearing a long drab ulster. She buried her face in her handkerchief when Singaevsky was brought in by three soldiers. Both Singaevsky and Rudzinsky represent brutish criminal types, and spoke callously of their robbery exploits. Both explained that they confessed of their own accord to a robbery perpetrated on the evening of March 25, 1911, because they wished to avert any suspicion of having been connected with the murder of Yushinsky, which was committed on that day, but they were at a loss to reply when counsel for the defence asked them how the former precluded the latter.

On being confronted with Svatchky, the hairdresser, Rudzinsky said he did not recognise him, although the prison records showed that they were in gaol together. Rudzinsky denied Svatchky's story, which was to the effect that one night he woke up and heard another prisoner ask Rudzinsky, "Why do you decorate him like that?" To this Rudzinsky answered, "To prevent him from turning traitor, the dog." Rudzinsky proceeded to narrate a plan for pillaging the Sofia Cathedral in Kieff by passing Yushinsky through a grating to draw the bolts of the door, which could not be forced. Singaevsky was confronted with Makhalin, who says Singaevsky confessed to the crime in conversation with him, but when asked whether he recognised him he remained silent for two or three minutes.

The President several times repeated his question, and Singaevsky finally replied in the affirmative, but denied having confessed to the murder or to having been in the least concerned in the crime. Makhalin, however, adhered to his evidence to that effect.

During the early part of to-day's sitting Vera Cheberiak gave another instance of her remarkable resource and love of melodramatic effect. The journalist Yablonovsky, of the "Kiefsky Mysl," described the interview at which he was present in the restaurant at Kharkoff, when Vera declares that Margotin and Brushkovsky offered her £4,000 to confess to the crime. On leaving the restaurant Yablonovsky asserted that he said to Brushkovsky, who accompanied him, "This woman probably lies always, even when she wants to speak the truth."

At the instance of the prosecutor, Yablonovsky was confronted with Vera, who had declared in her evidence that a stranger was present at the interview in the restaurant, and had offered her the £4,000. Vera asked that Yablonovsky should be given a chair. This was done, and he sat down, crossing his arms as he did so. Vera at once cried "That is he." Those present in court burst into laughter, but she went on unperturbed to declare that she recognised him from his hair and the way he sat down as the stranger who had offered her the money. Yablonovsky promptly replied, "Very well, make an inquiry, and see which of us is lying to the Court."

Monday.

This morning saw the curtain rise on the second act of the dramatic trial of the Jew, Mendel Beiliss, for the murder of the Christian boy Yushinsky. The medical and religious experts, whose evidence is intended to cast light on the alleged practice of ritual murder by the Jews, will be the most prominent characters of the next few days. Among the former, Professor Sikorsky, of the Kieff University, a prominent mental specialist, whose views figure largely in the indictment, maintains that the circumstances point to the case being one of ritual murder, and he is expected to testify in this sense. Not the least amazing feature of this most extraordinary trial is that in an orthodox country Father Pranaitis, a Roman Catholic Priest, figures as the principal ecclesiastical denunciator of the Jews. It is true that the evidence of an orthodox priest, the archimandrite Ambrosius, of the Pochaeff Monastery, was read to-day, but it amounted to very little, inasmuch as he admitted that he had not studied the question. His conviction that the Jews, and especially the Chassidim or very strict ritual observers, practised the killing of innocent Christian children, and made use of their blood in the preparation of Passover cakes, was based, he said, upon his intercourse with baptised Jews, who had become orthodox monks. He mentioned in particular two who had both been brought up in a school for soldiers' children, where they received very scant education, one of them being the Archimandrite Autonomius, who gave evidence before the Court on the 14th inst., when he said he had had personal knowledge of several cases of Christian children who had been tortured by Jews.

Ambrosius affirmed that, according to Talmud, blood was the symbol of life, and the Jews were the sole lords of life, all other races being their slaves. The use of blood in the Passover unleavened bread symbolised the right appertaining to Jews to dispose of the lives even of slaves. The Jews, he said, wished all non-Jews to know this. That was why the body of a Christian from which the blood had been drained was not allowed to disappear without a trace, although no indications were left as to the scene of the murder or as to the identity of the murderers. Ambrosius described the procedure followed in these alleged ritual murders, and stated that there must be altogether about 45 wounds inflicted on specified parts of the body.

A considerable part of the day was taken up with the reading of the procès verbaux of the preliminary inquiry.

HERE.

THE VATICAN AND THE BLOOD LIBEL.

LORD ROTHSCHILD'S APPEAL FOR TESTIMONY.

Lord Rothschild on October 7th addressed a letter to Cardinal Merry del Val, the Papal Secretary of State, in which, after observing that the accusation of ritual murder has more than once been denounced by the Sovereign Pontiffs, he made a request for the testimony of the Curia in connection with an affidavit submitted by the prosecution in the Kieff trial. The affidavit in question was sworn by Justinus Elisejevitch Pranaitis, who describes himself as a Magister of Theology and Roman Catholic Diocesan of the Turkestan province. In that affidavit reference is made to the testimonies of Pope Innocent IV. and of Cardinal Lorenzo Ganganelli on the subject of ritual murder charges. Pope Innocent IV. issued an encyclical specifically declaring the charge of ritual murder as applied to Judaism to be a baseless and wicked invention, while Cardinal Ganganelli's elaborate report on the subject was drawn up at the instance of his Holiness Pope Benedict XIV. in 1758, and acted upon by his successor Pope Clement XIII. It is stated by Justinus Elisejevitch Pranaitis that he has been unable to find these testimonies in the usual works of reference, and he consequently expresses the opinion that they have no authentic existence and the published texts are forgeries.

Lord Rothschild said the question was one of authenticating the published texts, and the originals or official records were doubtless in his Eminence's custody. He enclosed with the letter copies of the texts so far as they were known to himself, and he concluded by saying:—

I do not doubt that, following in the enlightened and generous traditions of the Holy See which has so often raised its voice in defence of the oppressed and in vindication of truth and justice, your Eminence will graciously favour me at an early date with the testimony I require, and which I am empowered to seek of your Eminence by my Jewish co-religionists.

Writing under date October 18, Cardinal Merry del Val replied as follows:—

My Lord,—In reply to your letter of October 7th, I am in a position to certify that the typewritten copy of Ganganelli's Report to the Consultors of the Holy Office is substantially authentic. I can state this after due assurance after inquiries made at the Holy Office, where the original document is kept. As to the extract of Innocent Fourth's letter, there can be no doubt of the accuracy of Raynaldi's quotation which is confirmed by the fact of Ganganelli citing it in his report. Trusting that this declaration may serve your purpose, I have the honour to be, my Lord, your obedient servant,

R. Card. Merry del Val.

SCOTTISH COALING STEAMER SUNK.

Paris, Monday.

A telegram from Saint Brieuc states that the steamer Seaspray, with 1,000 tons of coal for Saint Brieuc, struck a reef near the harbour last night and sank. The crew escaped in their boats. The Sea Spray was a Glasgow steamer of 560 tons.—Central News.

A CANADIAN CLERGYMAN SHOT.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Ottawa, Sunday.

The body was found yesterday in some woods near Buckingham, Quebec, of the Rev. Scott Currie, rector of the Anglican church of a neighbouring village. A week ago Mr. Scott when grouse shooting became separated from the rest of the party, and was not seen again. The body has a wound in the neck, indicating that Mr. Scott accidentally shot himself. He leaves a widow and child in England.

A CHINESE WATER FAMINE.

SERIOUS PLIGHT OF THE YANGTSE VALLEY.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Shanghai, Sunday.

The Nankin correspondent of the "North China Daily News" sends a pitiable account of a water famine there. Although adjacent to the River Yangtse, the city is dependent for its water supply on ponds and wells which have practically dried up. Moreover, unless there is rain very soon, the wheat crop will be ruined, adding famine to the destitution caused by looting, the losses by which are estimated at fifteen million dollars without including the suburb of Hsia Kuan, which was almost destroyed in the siege. Throughout the Yangtse Valley the dearth of water is most serious, and in the Wuhu district a case is reported of a man walking twenty miles for a bucket of water.

MINERS' WAGES.

THE MEN'S REQUEST FOR A NEW STANDARD.

A meeting of the miners' section of the Coal Conciliation Board for the federated mining districts in England and North Wales was held in London yesterday, to consider the proposals for the setting up of a new wage standard. Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., Lancashire, presided.

The present agreement with the coalowners terminates in March, 1915, when negotiations will take place for a new agreement. Yesterday's meeting was primarily arranged for the purpose of preparing the men's case for proposals to set up a new standard wage in place of the present 1888 standard, by which wages are regulated in the area of the English Conciliation Board. It was decided to ask the coalowners to agree to a new wage standard 50 per cent. higher than the existing standard, by merging into the standard the present minimum wage of 50 per cent., which was part of the present agreement. This proposal will be submitted to the coalowners for their consideration at an early date. The ordinary quarterly meeting of the Conciliation Board was fixed for Thursday, but this meeting has by mutual arrangement been postponed. Thus the coal owners will have a better opportunity of considering the proposal before it is submitted to the Conciliation Board.

Though the proposed new standard wage does not carry with it any proposal for an actual increase of wages, it is of considerable importance to the mining industry, and is hardly likely to be conceded by the coalowners without protracted discussions. It must be remembered that all alterations in wages are made by percentages on the basis wage. If the standard is altered by merging into it the present 50 per cent. minimum, it will mean that future alterations of 5 per cent. will be at least 1½ per cent. more than if based on the present standard.

CLEVELAND MINERS' WAGES REDUCED.

The question of wages to be paid under the sliding scale, to the Cleveland miners, and the Weardale quarrymen during the ensuing three months, was again considered at a meeting held at Middlesbrough yesterday afternoon, between the Cleveland ironstone mineowners and the Cleveland miners' representatives. It was agreed to reduce the wages by 7½ per cent., the reduction taking effect from yesterday.

TYNE HOPPERMEN'S STRIKE SETTLED.

The dispute, which has lasted for seven weeks, between the Tyne Hopper Co. (Limited) and the Tyne hoppermen, has been amicably arranged, and the men resumed work yesterday. The original demands of the men have not in all cases been complied with, but a satisfactory compromise has been come to with regard to increase of wages, overtime, and Sunday labour.

AMALGAMATION OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

The amalgamation in one organisation of all postal, telegraphic, and telephonic servants employed by the Postmaster-General was decided upon yesterday at a Conference held at Caxton Hall, London. The Conference represented 97,000 Post Office employees. The resolution endorsing the policy of amalgamation was adopted after the rejection of an amendment which sought to confine amalgamation only to the minor grades. A Committee representing the different organisations was elected, with instructions to draw up a detailed scheme.

THE P. AND O. OFFICERS' DISPUTE.

In connection with the dispute between the P. and O. Navigation Company and their officers, it was stated by Mr. T. W. Moore, secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, which has taken up the officers' side of the case, that 30 officers had, in accordance with the notices handed in, ceased work at noon yesterday. Mr. Moore further stated that he could not see how the six P. and O. boats now at Tilbury or London docks could leave until the dispute was settled.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SIR EDWARD GREY ON THE OUTLOOK.

Sir Edward Grey, at Berwick, yesterday, received a deputation representing the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, which was introduced by Sir Francis Blake. Sir Edward, in reply, said the Government could not obviously bring in a Women's Suffrage Bill next session, because about half the Cabinet was genuinely opposed to it and voted against it on conviction. What they asked was that the Government should break up. He would not say whether that would be reasonable or unreasonable, but there would be some force in the demand which was made that members of the Cabinet who were in favour of women's suffrage should break up the Government unless it would proceed with the question if there was any chance that, when the Government broke up, another Government would be formed which was in favour of it. There was no chance at present. Supposing the Government did break up, and the Conservative party came in, they were not more favourably disposed as a Government to women's suffrage. If, in the next Parliament, there was a majority really in earnest on the question women's suffrage would be carried into law.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

(From our Correspondents.)

Lieut.-Col. P. J. Bellamy, who got the command of the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment (Westmorlands) when it was stationed at Sheffield, Bradford, and Strensall, four years ago, has gone on half-pay, after thirty years' service. He is succeeded by Major Lewis I. Wood.

Capt. and Hon. Major F. S. Gowland, from the 4th West Riding Howitzer Brigade, R.F.A. (Wharfedale), has been transferred to the Territorial Force Reserve. He was appointed to the ammunition column at Ilkley in 1909.

According to mail advices from India, Lieut.-Col. H. F. Doare, who, as already reported, has handed over the command of the 8th Hussars to Major Mussenden, had recently to suffer amputation of a foot owing to gangrene. He served as a captain in the regiment at Leeds Barracks.

MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FIASCO.

HUERTA STILL IN POWER.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.

(From our Correspondent.)

New York, Monday.

To-day's messages from Mexico City state that although the full returns are not yet available, yesterday's election proved futile, and will be officially declared void, as no candidate has received the requisite number of votes according to the Mexican Constitution. The proportion of electors exercising the suffrage was ridiculously small, and in Mexico City and district, of 80,000 voters only 5,000 took the trouble to record their votes. This was due to the fact that the populace is quite convinced that General Huerta intends to retain the Presidency, and many did not deem it politic to support any of the official candidates. General Huerta will accordingly remain provisional President, and at some future date will order a new election which, judging by yesterday's proceedings, will probably result in another fiasco.

General Diaz, doubtless with wisdom, decided to keep his head out of the lion's mouth, and to remain at Vera Cruz, although this afternoon there was an unconfirmed report that he had been arrested. I cannot verify this, and later despatches indicate that it is improbable. He has telegraphed to the War Department resigning his commission as Brigadier-General in the Federal forces, but so far his resignation has not been accepted. Except for the general feeling of unrest, quietness prevails in the south, although in the north there is the usual skirmishing between rebels and Federals.

President Wilson is now in Mobile, Alabama, and neither he nor Mr. Bryan, the Secretary of State, has made any official statement on the Mexican situation. The former, however, made an important speech at the Southern Commercial Congress at Mobile today, and while not specifically referring to Mexico, he uttered what was obviously intended to be a warning to Europe, and further emphasised the adherence of the United States to the Monroe doctrine.

(Reuter's Telegram.)

New York, Monday.

A telegram from Mexico City says the Catholic party claims that its candidates, Señores Gamboa and Rascon, lead by far. If this be correct it is generally believed that Señores Diaz and Requena are second. General Huerta did not vote, remaining at his suburban home. The election officials, among whom there are, apparently, no Government officials, offered no coercion or suggestion to the voters. The ballot boxes consisted of any receptacle from a paste-board shoebox to a plush-covered jewel case or druggist's glass jar. There were no disorders anywhere.

General Huerta is issuing a decree to-day increasing the army from 85,000 to 150,000.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND FOREIGN INTERESTS IN MEXICO.

A POLICY OF "EMANCIPATION."

(Reuter's Telegram.)

Mobile, Monday.

President Wilson to-day stated that the governing motive of the United States in relation to the Governments of this hemisphere was morality, not expediency. "I want," he declared, "to take this occasion to say the United States will not again seek to secure one additional foot of territory by conquest."

He made a veiled attack on what he termed the material interests that had influenced the foreign policy of certain other Governments in their relations with nations of Latin-America. Mexico was not mentioned, but in view of recent events the President's hearers concluded that he had Mexico in his mind. Mr. Wilson went on to declare it to be the duty of the United States to assist the nations of this hemisphere in their emancipation from the material interests of other nations, that they might enjoy constitutional liberty unrestrained. He said:—

You hear of concessions to foreign capital in Latin-America, but you do not hear of concessions to foreign capital in the United States. Here foreigners are not granted concessions. They are invited to make investments. It is an invitation and not a privilege. States that are obliged to grant concessions are in the position that foreign interests are apt to dominate their affairs. Such a state of things is apt to become intolerable. It is emancipation from this inevitable subordination that we deem it our duty to assist in.

President Wilson prophesied that the future would be very different from the past. Nations to the southward would be drawn closer to the United States because of those circumstances of which he had spoken.

We cannot be friends (he said) on any other terms than those of equality. We must prove ourselves their friends by comprehending their interests, whether they square with ours or not. It is a most perilous thing to determine foreign policy in terms of material interests, indeed, a degrading thing.

The President drew an eloquent picture of pan-American relations henceforth as those of a family of mankind devoted to the principles from which human liberty springs.

CHINESE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS.

MINISTERS AND FOREIGN CONTROL.

(Press Association Special Telegram.)

Pekin, Monday.

A meeting of the Salt Administration Association, at which members of the Cabinet and a number of leading officials and business men were present, was held to-day. Chang-Chien, Minister of Commerce, the greatest salt expert in China, reviewed the efforts to reorganise the salt administration during the past twenty years, and referred to the well-known salt book which he published last year. He said he then believed that foreign assistance in the reorganisation of the salt administration was unnecessary, but had since altered his views, and was now convinced that it was essential that the entire control of the salt administration should pass into foreign hands before long if effective reorganisation was not introduced. The Chinese should, therefore, unite to reform the Salt Gabelle.

The Premier and other notables endorsed Chang-Chien's views. The former warned the audience, who, he said, were leaders of the nation, that the only alternative to foreign control was effective reorganisation. He added that foreigners did not desire to take over the salt administration, and there was still ample time to prevent it. A wave of renewed confidence on the part both of Chinese and foreigners was setting in in China regarding the country's future, principally owing to the sound and progressive policy of the present efficient Cabinet, which was working well with Yuan-Shih-Kai.

A RUSSIAN EXPRESS WRECKED.

Rostoff-on-Don, Monday.

An express train ran off the rails near the station of Stepnaja, 47 miles from Rostoff-on-Don, on the Vladikavkas Railway, owing to the rails having been maliciously loosened. Three passenger carriages were burnt, but all the passengers were saved. A guard, however, was burnt to death, and a stoker, another guard, and several passengers received slight injuries.—Reuter.

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